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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/760,647	01/17/2001	Naoto Kinjo	Q62079	3441

7590   09/22/2006

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EXAMINER
JONES, HEATHER RAE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2621	

DATE MAILED: 09/22/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/760,647	KINJO, NAOTO
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Heather R. Jones	2621	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *26 June 2006*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-15 and 17-31* is/are pending in the application.

   4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-15 and 17-31* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *17 January 2001* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

   Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

   Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

   a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

   1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

   2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

   3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

   * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1.   Applicant's arguments, see page 17, line 22 – page 19, line 2, filed June 26,

2006, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-23 have been fully considered and

are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further

consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of a newly found prior art

reference.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3.   Claims 1-15 and 17-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Tullis (U.S. Patent 6,535,243) in view of Tabata (U.S. Patent

6,198,542).

Regarding claim 1, Tullis discloses an image processing method

comprising the steps of: receiving at least one of photographed image data,

temporary camera control information, additional information and indication

information of a desired processing content from a camera (40) (col. 2, lines 46-

48; col. 6, lines 26-33); and reasoning out or creating at least one information of

information relating to photographing control, information relating to image

processing and information relating to a photographed image, in accordance with the at least one of the photographed image data, the temporary camera control information, the additional information and the indication information which have been received (col. 2, lines 58-65), wherein the at least one of temporary camera control information, additional information and indication information of a desired processing content from the camera (40) relates to the photographed image data obtained by photographing with the camera (40) (col. 2, lines 58-65; col. 6, lines 26-33). However, Tullis fails to disclose an image processing method wherein the camera is connected with plural types of external apparatuses wherein an order of priority of preliminarily set among the plural types of the external apparatuses; and wherein image processing is performed to the priority of the plural types of external apparatuses.

Referring to the Tabata reference, Tabata discloses a network control method and system that connects a computer with several image forming apparatuses (external apparatuses) via a network. Furthermore, Tabata discloses an image processing method comprising the step of preliminarily setting an order of priority among the plural types of external apparatuses, and wherein image processing is performed to the priority of the plural types of external apparatuses (Figs. 8-11; col. 9, lines 40-47; col. 9, line 66 – col. 10, line 41). Although Tabata does not disclose a camera connected to the system a camera is considered to be an image forming apparatus and therefore would be

included amongst the possibilities of image forming apparatus that Tabata

discloses.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at

the time the invention was made to have designed a system connected to one or

more external apparatus with priorities preliminarily set as taught by Tabata with

the camera in the Tullis reference in order to allow the camera to send image

data to external apparatuses for different image data processing (printing,

recording, and transmitting) in any desired order.

Regarding claim 2, Tullis in view of Tabata discloses all the limitations as

previously discussed with respect to claim 1 including the information relating to

the photographed image is information related to a subject or a photographing

condition (Tullis: col. 6, lines 26-33; col. 3, lines 6-11).

Regarding claim 3, Tullis in view of Tabata discloses all the limitations as

previously discussed with respect to claim 1, including the at least one

information reasoned out or created is supplied to the camera (40) (Tullis: col. 2,

line 65 col. 3, line 1).

Regarding claim 4, Tullis in view of Tabata discloses all the limitations as

previously discussed with respect to claim 1, including that the step of receiving

the at least one of the photographed image data, the temporary camera control

information, the additional information and the indication information from the

camera (40) and the step of supplying the at least one information to the camera

(40) are performed by wired or radio communications (Tullis: col. 2, lines 40-43).

Regarding claim **5**, Tullis in view of Tabata discloses all the limitations as previously discussed with respect to claim 1, including that the information relating to the photographed image is principal subject information reasoned out or created in accordance with the photographed image data, wherein the information relating to the photographing control is at least one of camera control information set in accordance with the principal subject information and camera position information reasoned out or created in accordance with the photographed image data and photographing place information as the additional information, and wherein at least one of the principal subject information, the camera control information and the camera position information is supplied to the camera (40) (Tullis: col. 3, lines 6-11 and 26-30; col. 6, lines 26-33 – the zoom factor being adjusted would changed the camera (40) position according to the subject in the photograph).

Regarding claim **6**, Tullis in view of Tabata discloses all the limitations as previously discussed with respect to claim 1, including that the additional information is at least one of information relating to deterioration of marginal lumination of the camera (40), information relating to poor focus of the camera (40), information relating to gradation control of density or color of an image, information relating to sharpness enhancement processing or smoothing processing of the image, information relating to geometrical adjustment of the image and information relating to designation of an applicable area of these image processing, and wherein the information relating to the image processing

is reasoned out or created in accordance with the additional information received from the camera (40) (Tullis: col. 2, line 58 – col. 2, line 11; col. 6, lines 26-33).

Regarding claim 7, Tullis in view of Tabata discloses all the limitations as previously discussed with respect to claim 1. Furthermore, Tullis discloses an image processing method wherein the additional information is at least one of information related to an image to be composited in an output image and information related to a character to be composited in the output image, wherein at least one of information related to a composite image and information related to a composite character is reasoned out or created in accordance with the additional information received from the camera (40), and wherein at least one of the information related to the composite image and the information related to the composite character which have been reasoned out or created is supplied to the camera (40) (Tullis: col. 3, lines 26-30; col. 7, lines 58-63). The time and/or date are included with the image data as it is sent to the host computer. Furthermore, it is well known in the art that the time and/or date is an image that is composited in the output image when the image is printed. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined the teaching of printing the time and/or date on the image to be sent to the host computer to be reasoned out and sent back to camera (40) to display the image with the time and/or date so the user would know when the image was taken. Furthermore, the host computer is able to search for other pictures taken around that time or date.

Regarding claim **8**, Tullis discloses an image processing apparatus comprising: a receiving/supplying unit which receives at least one of photographed image data, temporary camera control information, additional information and indication information of a desired processing content from a camera (40) having an image sensor and capable of obtaining the photographed image data (col. 2, lines 46-48); and an information processing unit (10) which reasons out or creates at least one information of information relating to photographing control, information relating to image processing and information relating to a photographed image in accordance with the at least one of the photographed image data, the temporary camera control information, the additional information and the indication information (col. 2, lines 58-65), wherein the at least one of temporary camera control information, additional information and indication information of a desired processing content from the camera (40) relates to the photographed image data obtained by photographing with the camera (40) (col. 2, lines 58-65; col. 6, lines 26-33). However, Tullis fails to disclose an image processing method wherein the camera is connected with plural types of external apparatuses wherein an order of priority of preliminarily set among the plural types of the external apparatuses; and wherein image processing is performed to the priority of the plural types of external apparatuses.

Referring to the Tabata reference, Tabata discloses a network control method and system that connects a computer with several image forming apparatuses (external apparatuses) via a network. Furthermore, Tabata

discloses an image processing method comprising the step of preliminarily

setting an order of priority among the plural types of external apparatuses, and

wherein image processing is performed to the priority of the plural types of

external apparatuses (Figs. 8-11; col. 9, lines 40-47; col. 9, line 66 – col. 10, line

41). Although Tabata does not disclose a camera connected to the system a

camera is considered to be an image forming apparatus and therefore would be

included amongst the possibilities of image forming apparatus that Tabata

discloses.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at

the time the invention was made to have designed a system connected to one or

more external apparatus with priorities preliminarily set as taught by Tabata with

the camera in the Tullis reference in order to allow the camera to send image

data to external apparatuses for different image data processing (printing,

recording, and transmitting) in any desired order.

Regarding claim **9**, Tullis in view of Tabata discloses all the limitations as

previously discussed with respect to claim 8, including that the information

processing unit supplies the at least one information reasoned out or created to

the camera (40) by the receiving/supplying unit in accordance with processing to

be performed (Tullis: col. 2, line 65 col. 3, line 1).

Regarding claim **10**, Tullis in view of Tabata discloses all the limitations as

previously discussed with respect to claim 8, including that the

receiving/supplying unit is an information communication unit (Tullis: col. 2, lines 40-43).

Regarding claim **11**, Tullis in view of Tabata discloses all the limitations as previously discussed with respect to claim 8, including that the information relating to the photographed image is principal subject information reasoned out or created in accordance with the photographed image data, wherein the information relating to the photographing control is at least one of camera control information set in accordance with the principal subject information and camera position information reasoned out or created in accordance with the photographed image data and photographing place information as the additional information, and wherein the information processing unit supplies at least one of the principal subject information, the camera control information and the camera position information which have been reasoned out or created to the camera (40) by the receiving/supplying unit (Tullis: col. 3, lines 6-11 and 26-30; col. 6, lines 26-33 – the zoom factor being adjusted would changed the camera (40) position according to the subject in the photograph).

Regarding claim **12**, Tullis in view of Tabata discloses all the limitations as previously discussed with respect to claim 8, including that the additional information is at least one of information relating to deterioration of marginal lumination of the camera (40), information relating to poor focus of the camera (40), information relating to gradation control of density or color of an image, information relating to sharpness enhancement processing or smoothing

processing of the image, information relating to geometrical adjustment of the

image and information relating to designation of an applicable area of these

image processing, and wherein the information relating to the image processing

is reasoned out or creates the information in accordance with the additional

information which has been received (Tullis: col. 2, line 58 – col. 2, line 11; col. 6,

lines 26-33).

Regarding claim **13**, Tullis in view of Tabata discloses all the limitations as

previously discussed with respect to claim 1. Furthermore, Tullis discloses an

image processing method wherein the additional information is at least one of

information related to an image to be composited in an output image and

information related to a character to be composited in the output image, wherein

the information processing unit reasons out or creates at least one of information

related to a composite image and information related to a composite character in

accordance with the additional information which has been received and supplies

at least one of the information related to the composite image and the information

related to the composite character which have been reasoned out or created to

the camera (40) (col. 3, lines 26-30; col. 7, lines 58-63). The time and/or date

are included with the image data as it is sent to the host computer. Furthermore,

it is well known in the art that the time and/or date is an image that is composited

in the output image when the image is printed. Therefore, it would have been

obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to

have combined the teaching of printing the time and/or date on the image to be

sent to the host computer to be reasoned out and sent back to camera (40) to display the image with the time and/or date so the user would know when the image was taken. Furthermore, the host computer is able to search for other pictures taken around that time or date.

Regarding claim **14**, Tullis discloses a camera (40) comprising: an image sensor (48) for obtaining photographed image data; an input unit for inputting at least one of additional information and indication information of a desired processing content (64) (Fig. 2); and an information sending/receiving unit (14 and 72) for sending at least one of the photographed image data which has been obtained, temporary camera control information which has temporarily been set, the additional information which has been inputted and the indication information which has been inputted to an image processing apparatus, as well as, receives at least one information of information relating to photographing control, information relating to image processing and information relating to photographed image which have been reasoned out or created by the image processing apparatus in accordance with the at least one of the photographed image data, the temporary camera control information, the additional information and the indication information, from the image processing apparatus (col. 2, lines 46-48 and 58-65; col. 6, lines 26-33), wherein the at least one of the temporary camera control information, the additional information and the indication information relates to the photographed image data obtained by photographing with the camera (40) (col. 2, lines 58-65; col. 6, lines 26-33). However, Tullis

fails to disclose an image processing method wherein the camera is connected

with plural types of external apparatuses wherein an order of priority of

preliminarily set among the plural types of the external apparatuses; and wherein

image processing is performed to the priority of the plural types of external

apparatuses.

Referring to the Tabata reference, Tabata discloses a network control

method and system that connects a computer with several image forming

apparatuses (external apparatuses) via a network. Furthermore, Tabata

discloses an image processing method comprising the step of preliminarily

setting an order of priority among the plural types of external apparatuses, and

wherein image processing is performed to the priority of the plural types of

external apparatuses (Figs. 8-11; col. 9, lines 40-47; col. 9, line 66 – col. 10, line

41). Although Tabata does not disclose a camera connected to the system a

camera is considered to be an image forming apparatus and therefore would be

included amongst the possibilities of image forming apparatus that Tabata

discloses.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at

the time the invention was made to have designed a system connected to one or

more external apparatus with priorities preliminarily set as taught by Tabata with

the camera in the Tullis reference in order to allow the camera to send image

data to external apparatuses for different image data processing (printing,

recording, and transmitting) in any desired order.

Regarding claim **15**, Tullis discloses a photographing system comprising:

a camera (40); and an image processing apparatus (10); wherein the camera

(40) comprises: an image sensor (48) for obtaining photographed image data; an

input unit (64) for inputting at least one of additional information and indication

information of a desired processing content; and an information

sending/receiving unit (72) for sending at least one of the photographed image

data which has been obtained, temporary camera control information which has

temporarily been set, the additional information which has been inputted and the

indication information which has been inputted to the image processing

apparatus, as well as, receives at least one information of information relating to

photographing control, information relating to image processing and information

relating to a photographed image which have been reasoned out or created by

the image processing apparatus in accordance with the at least one of the

photographed image data, the temporary camera control information, the

additional information and the indication information, from the image processing

apparatus; and wherein the image processing apparatus comprises: a

receiving/supplying unit which receives the at least one of the photographed

image data, the temporary camera control information, the additional information

and the indication information from the camera (40) (Fig. 2; col. 2, lines 26-33

and 58-65; col. 6, lines 26-33); and an information processing unit (10) which

reasons out or creates the at least one information of the information relating to

the photographing control, the information relating to the image processing and

the information relating to the photographed image in accordance with the at

least one of the photographed image data, the temporary camera control

information, the additional information and the indication information, wherein the

at least one of the temporary camera control information, the additional

information and the indication information relates to the photographed image

data obtained by photographing with the camera (40) (Fig. 2; col. 2, lines 26-33

and 58-65; col. 6, lines 26-33). However, Tullis fails to disclose an image

processing method wherein the camera is connected with plural types of external

apparatuses wherein an order of priority of preliminarily set among the plural

types of the external apparatuses; and wherein image processing is performed to

the priority of the plural types of external apparatuses.

Referring to the Tabata reference, Tabata discloses a network control

method and system that connects a computer with several image forming

apparatuses (external apparatuses) via a network. Furthermore, Tabata

discloses an image processing method comprising the step of preliminarily

setting an order of priority among the plural types of external apparatuses, and

wherein image processing is performed to the priority of the plural types of

external apparatuses (Figs. 8-11; col. 9, lines 40-47; col. 9, line 66 – col. 10, line

41). Although Tabata does not disclose a camera connected to the system a

camera is considered to be an image forming apparatus and therefore would be

included amongst the possibilities of image forming apparatus that Tabata

discloses.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have designed a system connected to one or more external apparatus with priorities preliminarily set as taught by Tabata with the camera in the Tullis reference in order to allow the camera to send image data to external apparatuses for different image data processing (printing, recording, and transmitting) in any desired order.

Regarding claim **17**, Tullis in view of Tabata discloses all the limitations as previously discussed with respect to claim 15, including that the information processing apparatus is a portable external apparatus which is directly connectable to the camera (40) or an installation-type apparatus which can communicate with the camera (40) (Tullis: Fig. 2, the computer may be directly connected to the camera using wires).

Regarding claim **18**, Tullis in view of Tabata discloses all the limitations as discussed with respect to claims 15 and 17, but fails to disclose that the image processing apparatus is installed in a lab shop. Official Notice is taken that it is well known to connect a camera to an image processing apparatus that is installed in a lab shop. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have connected the camera to an image processing apparatus installed in a lab shop in order to save the user time in allowing the user to only have to go to the lab shop to pick up the user's order instead of having to go to the lab shop to place the order as well as pick up the order.

Regarding claim **19**, Tullis in view of Tabata discloses all the limitations as

discussed with respect to claim 15 as well as disclosing the camera is connected

with one or more types of portable external apparatus and one or more types of

installation-type apparatus whereupon priorities to be applied for image

processing is preliminarily set among the one or more types of the external

apparatus and one or more types of the installation-type apparatus, and wherein

the apparatus to be applied for image processing is changed in accordance with

capability of executing a specified image processing circuit (Tabata: Figs. 8-11;

col. 9, lines 40-47; col. 9, line 66 – col. 10, line 41 – see claim 15 for a further

explanation of the camera being connected with one or more types of portable

external apparatus and one or more types of installation-type apparatus).

Regarding claim **20**, Tullis discloses an image processing method

comprising the steps of: receiving photographed image data and at least one of

temporary camera control information, additional information and indication

information of a desired processing content from a camera (40) (col. 2, lines 46-

48; col. 6, lines 26-33); and reasoning out or creating at least one of information

relating to photographing control, information relating to image processing and

information relating to a photographed image, in accordance with the

photographed image data and at least one of the temporary camera control

information, the additional information and the indication information which have

been received (col. 2, lines 58-65). However, Tullis fails to disclose an image

processing method wherein the camera is connected with plural types of external

apparatuses wherein an order of priority of preliminarily set among the plural

types of the external apparatuses; and wherein image processing is performed to

the priority of the plural types of external apparatuses.

Referring to the Tabata reference, Tabata discloses a network control

method and system that connects a computer with several image forming

apparatuses (external apparatuses) via a network. Furthermore, Tabata

discloses an image processing method comprising the step of preliminarily

setting an order of priority among the plural types of external apparatuses, and

wherein image processing is performed to the priority of the plural types of

external apparatuses (Figs. 8-11; col. 9, lines 40-47; col. 9, line 66 – col. 10, line

41). Although Tabata does not disclose a camera connected to the system a

camera is considered to be an image forming apparatus and therefore would be

included amongst the possibilities of image forming apparatus that Tabata

discloses.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at

the time the invention was made to have designed a system connected to one or

more external apparatus with priorities preliminarily set as taught by Tabata with

the camera in the Tullis reference in order to allow the camera to send image

data to external apparatuses for different image data processing (printing,

recording, and transmitting) in any desired order.

Regarding claim **21**, Tullis discloses an image processing apparatus

comprising: a receiving/supplying unit which receives photographed image data

and at least one of temporary camera control information, additional information

and indication information of a desired processing content from a camera (40)

having an image sensor and capable of obtaining the photographed image data

(col. 2, lines 46-48); and an information processing unit (10) which reasons out or

creates at least one information of information relating to photographing control,

information relating to image processing and information relating to a

photographed image in accordance with the at least one of the photographed

image data, the temporary camera control information, the additional information

and the indication information (col. 2, lines 58-65). However, Tullis fails to

disclose an image processing method wherein the camera is connected with

plural types of external apparatuses wherein an order of priority of preliminarily

set among the plural types of the external apparatuses; and wherein image

processing is performed to the priority of the plural types of external apparatuses.

　　　　Referring to the Tabata reference, Tabata discloses a network control

method and system that connects a computer with several image forming

apparatuses (external apparatuses) via a network. Furthermore, Tabata

discloses an image processing method comprising the step of preliminarily

setting an order of priority among the plural types of external apparatuses, and

wherein image processing is performed to the priority of the plural types of

external apparatuses (Figs. 8-11; col. 9, lines 40-47; col. 9, line 66 – col. 10, line

41). Although Tabata does not disclose a camera connected to the system a

camera is considered to be an image forming apparatus and therefore would be

included amongst the possibilities of image forming apparatus that Tabata discloses.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have designed a system connected to one or more external apparatus with priorities preliminarily set as taught by Tabata with the camera in the Tullis reference in order to allow the camera to send image data to external apparatuses for different image data processing (printing, recording, and transmitting) in any desired order.

Regarding claim **22**, Tullis discloses a camera (40) comprising: an image sensor (48) for obtaining photographed image data; an input unit for inputting at least one of additional information and indication information of a desired processing content (64) (Fig. 2); and an information sending/receiving unit (14 and 72) for sending photographed image data which has been obtained and at least one of temporary camera control information which has temporarily been set, the additional information which has been inputted and the indication information which has been inputted to an image processing apparatus, as well as, receives at least one information of information relating to photographing control, information relating to image processing and information relating to photographed image which have been reasoned out or created by the image processing apparatus in accordance with the photographed image data and at least one of the temporary camera control information, the additional information and the indication information, from the image processing apparatus (col. 2, lines

46-48 and 58-65; col. 6, lines 26-33). However, Tullis fails to disclose an image

processing method wherein the camera is connected with plural types of external

apparatuses wherein an order of priority of preliminarily set among the plural

types of the external apparatuses; and wherein image processing is performed to

the priority of the plural types of external apparatuses.

Referring to the Tabata reference, Tabata discloses a network control

method and system that connects a computer with several image forming

apparatuses (external apparatuses) via a network. Furthermore, Tabata

discloses an image processing method comprising the step of preliminarily

setting an order of priority among the plural types of external apparatuses, and

wherein image processing is performed to the priority of the plural types of

external apparatuses (Figs. 8-11; col. 9, lines 40-47; col. 9, line 66 – col. 10, line

41). Although Tabata does not disclose a camera connected to the system a

camera is considered to be an image forming apparatus and therefore would be

included amongst the possibilities of image forming apparatus that Tabata

discloses.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at

the time the invention was made to have designed a system connected to one or

more external apparatus with priorities preliminarily set as taught by Tabata with

the camera in the Tullis reference in order to allow the camera to send image

data to external apparatuses for different image data processing (printing,

recording, and transmitting) in any desired order.

Regarding claim **23**, Tullis discloses a photographing system comprising:

a camera (40); and an image processing apparatus (10); wherein the camera

(40) comprises: an image sensor (48) for obtaining photographed image data; an

input unit (64) for inputting at least one of additional information and indication

information of a desired processing content; and an information

sending/receiving unit (72) for sending the photographed image data which has

been obtained and at least one of temporary camera control information which

has temporarily been set, the additional information which has been inputted and

the indication information which has been inputted to the image processing

apparatus, as well as, receives at least one information of information relating to

photographing control, information relating to image processing and information

relating to a photographed image which have been reasoned out or created by

the image processing apparatus in accordance with the at least one of the

photographed image data, the temporary camera control information, the

additional information and the indication information, from the image processing

apparatus; and wherein the image processing apparatus comprises: a

receiving/supplying unit which receives the at least one of the photographed

image data, the temporary camera control information, the additional information

and the indication information from the camera (40) (Fig. 2; col. 2, lines 26-33

and 58-65; col. 6, lines 26-33); and an information processing unit (10) which

reasons out or creates the at least one information of the information relating to

the photographing control, the information relating to the image processing and

the information relating to the photographed image in accordance with the photographed image data and at least one of the temporary camera control information, the additional information and the indication information (Fig. 2; col. 2, lines 26-33 and 58-65; col. 6, lines 26-33). However, Tullis fails to disclose an image processing method wherein the camera is connected with plural types of external apparatuses wherein an order of priority of preliminarily set among the plural types of the external apparatuses; and wherein image processing is performed to the priority of the plural types of external apparatuses.

Referring to the Tabata reference, Tabata discloses a network control method and system that connects a computer with several image forming apparatuses (external apparatuses) via a network. Furthermore, Tabata discloses an image processing method comprising the step of preliminarily setting an order of priority among the plural types of external apparatuses, and wherein image processing is performed to the priority of the plural types of external apparatuses (Figs. 8-11; col. 9, lines 40-47; col. 9, line 66 – col. 10, line 41). Although Tabata does not disclose a camera connected to the system a camera is considered to be an image forming apparatus and therefore would be included amongst the possibilities of image forming apparatus that Tabata discloses.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have designed a system connected to one or more external apparatus with priorities preliminarily set as taught by Tabata with

the camera in the Tullis reference in order to allow the camera to send image data to external apparatuses for different image data processing (printing, recording, and transmitting) in any desired order.

Regarding claims **24-31**, Tullis in view of Tabata discloses all the limitations as previously discussed with respect to claims 1, 8, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, and 23 including that the at least one of the plural types of the external apparatus returns to the camera an image processing condition or processed photographed image data on which the image processing is performed according to the image processing condition with respect to the photographed image data received from the camera (Tullis: Fig. 4; col. 7, lines 18-39).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Heather R. Jones whose telephone number is 571-272-7368. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Thurs.: 7:00 am - 4:30 pm, and every other F: 7:00 am - 3:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thai Tran can be reached on 571-272-7382. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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                                        Heather R Jones
                                        Examiner
                                        Art Unit 2621

HRJ
September 11, 2006